



**Rowhill School Mission Statement**

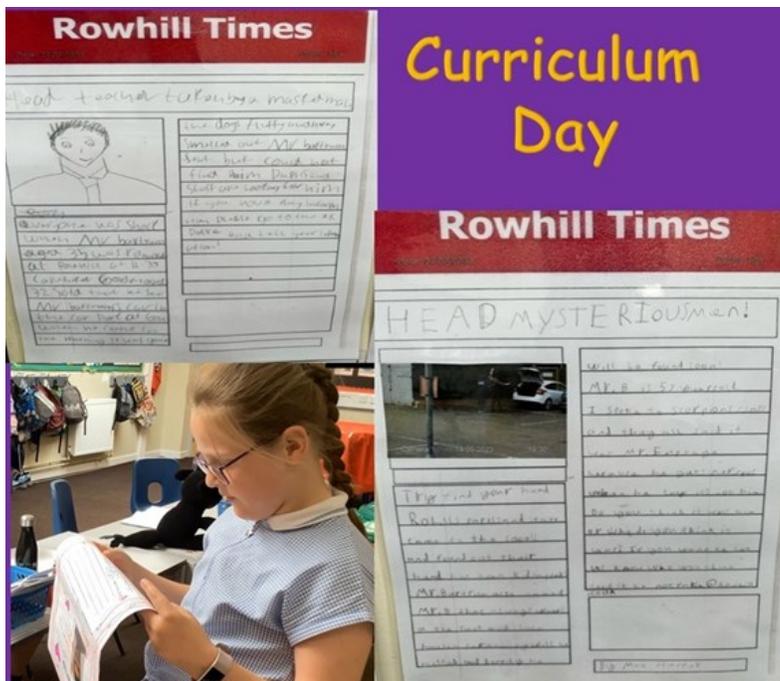
Developing the responsible citizen for tomorrow by raising self-esteem and independence through education and care

# Rowhill School Summer Newsletter

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## Who Kidnapped Mr Bartrum?



In June, The Primary and Transition Hubs took part (unknown to them at the time!) in a 'Talk for Writing' Curriculum Day. They were told that Mr Bartrum had been kidnapped (!) and they had to help discover who took him and what their motive was.

The students watched CCTV footage and heard witness statements. They had to solve a jumbled-up ransom note, and complete a news article, missing person poster or create a news broadcast to 'help the police'.

It was such a fun day for all involved and the students were amazing detectives and fully committed to solving the mystery. Some amazing writing was produced on the day and the students enjoyed sharing their writing with their groups. Luckily, Mr Bartrum was found safe and sound in the Sensory Room and we



were all extremely happy to have him back!

Huge thanks to Mrs Kotze and Mr Hoare for their hard work in planning and preparing for this day, and for the support from staff and pupils across the wider school in 'playing' along! This really was an enjoyable day for the pupils and adults alike!



## Therapy Team Art Project !

During the summer term three enthusiastic pupils supported the therapy team to introduce some colour to one of the rooms where therapy interventions are facilitated.



Zach and Caelan kick started the project by generating lots of lovely ideas for the images they wanted to see up on the walls. They also thought together with the team about how these images connect to our health and wellbeing.

Then came the time to pick up our paintbrushes and add a splash of colour! We quickly realised that 'many hands make light work' and Zach had the idea of inviting Sophie to join us! Zach knew Sophie enjoyed art.



It was a really enjoyable opportunity to see all three pupils smiling and working together, and talking while they painted.

Thank you so much to Sophie, Caelan and Zach for their hard work and creativity! We hope you all agree that the final result looks great!

*"In the Autumn term we are hoping to extend the project to other areas in the therapy suite, and would love to hear from anyone who would like to take part!"*

### Scorpions!

Gordon and Mr Emptage took Rylee O, Rylie S, Max, Harrison and Tommy to Maidstone Police Station open day earlier this term. It was a chance for them to see what sort of things the police do. They had live demonstrations watching the police in action e.g., pursuits and arrests, and dog unit displays (where dogs chased 'criminals'). They had the opportunity to sit in a police car and sound the sirens. There were lots of stalls where the children could ask questions and see how smugglers brought in contraband across the borders or try on riot gear.

### Live Events

A band with a singing chorus has been developing this term in music, consisting of drum - Ryan, Bass guitar/ guitar - Terry, Riley F & Toby, keyboard - Jonathan, Tayla & Ellie plus 5 singers - Terry D, Charlie, Megan, Liam, George. They have been rehearsing two songs, 'knocking on heaven's door' and 'Viva la Vida.' They have worked excellently as a group, attending rehearsals and working together.



With Gordon's expert input, the group has become quite competent, and this month they performed in the school showcase, then took their repertoire on tour to perform in the annual Ksent secondary music celebration at Meadowfield School. Mrs O'Connor has said, "they really did an excellent job on both occasions, really impressing the other music teachers, and making me really feel lucky to have such committed young musicians". Thanks also to Jay for supporting.



Further performances are being planned, including for school secondary prize day, on Monday July 17th. It is also hoped they will participate in 'The Wilderness' project which is part 3 of the ongoing Brave new world/ Living the dream project in conjunction with

'The Big Reveal' and 'Revelation Strings orchestra' and will occur in 2024.



*Play therapy in action—with thanks to one of our primary pupils who was happy to get in front of the camera!*

## Play Therapy at Rowhill

Rowhill school is pleased to welcome Liz !

Liz has been a Play Therapist for 8 years, working in schools and family support centres alongside managing her own private practice.

Liz started at Rowhill at the beginning of the Summer term, initially setting up the Play Therapy space. Liz has said, "I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know the pupils and staff at Rowhill. Everyone is a friendly supportive bunch and I'm really happy to be part of this passionate and hardworking team!"

Play Therapy allows the child to tell their story and work through their difficulties in a safe space, with no judgement, using their natural medium of self-expression...play!

Before starting her journey to become a Play Therapist, Liz was a Montessori teacher for ten years. This is where she gained her first insight into the importance of play and how it is one of the best ways to connect and support a child. As a practicing Play Therapist Liz's philosophy and message when working with children is "support the present to heal for the future."

Liz says, "it is an absolute honour to be able to provide children with the freedom to explore and be themselves. It has been one of the most rewarding roles I have experienced in my career and I look forward to continuing to provide these opportunities for the future generation."

You can find out more about Play Therapy on the school's website.

## T1 visit the Planetarium!

Earlier this term our T1 class went on a trip to the Planetarium at Greenwich.



### What did they have to say?

Brandon - "We saw the show, and enjoyed looking at all the planets and stars"

Charlie - "We went to the special cinema where the seats make you look up to the ceiling and watched the show of the planets and the solar system"

Matthew - "I liked the show and the park and we had a picnic"

George - "We went to the show and went to the park"

Freddy - "We watched the cinema show and played in the water at the park"



## CSCS Congratulations !

On Friday 12th May Nathan Childs in Year 11 passed his labouring CSCS card in Maidstone.

Sheer determination, flexibility, and hard work has paid off. Keep up the great work Nathan! And best of luck to Oliver M who will be taking the test on 7th July!

Ben Inman



## Pythons Class Day Out

Earlier this term Pythons class had a lovely day out at The Barking Fun Day.



Pythons enjoyed the rides, had their faces painted, and played together beautifully, practicing those all important social skills.



What a fun day it was for everyone!



## London Philharmonic Orchestra

As part of the Bright Sparks concert series, a group of students from Rowhill attended a concert in the Royal Festival Hall in May.



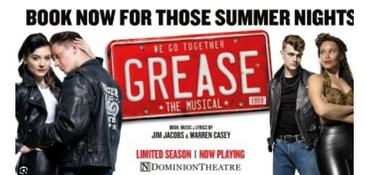
The music was from the 'Firebird' Ballet by Stravinsky, and students from the Primary school had the chance to join in with a song, listen to a world class orchestra, learn about the story and the different types of orchestral sounds.

The students were very well behaved and showed genuine interest, and had fun in the park, as well as looking with interest at the protestors when we visited Parliament Square.

Many thanks to Lynn and Mr Emptage for supporting with this trip.

## Grease the Musical

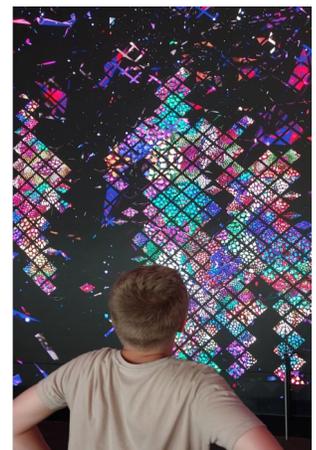
At Rowhill we often take groups of students to West end theatre performances, to inspire their own performances but also to enable them to access really quality arts experiences.



Through the charity 'Go Live Theatre', we were allocated tickets for Grease the musical at the Dominion Theatre, and 10 young people enjoyed the high energy, loud and vibrant performance. Many of our students have performed themselves, and had some interesting and astute observations about the production.

The Grease trip is the final show in a programme of first class productions this year attended by Rowhill students including Narnia (Gillian Lynne Theatre) Billy Goat's Gruff (Unicorn Theatre) and 'As you like it' by Shakespeare (Soho Place theatre)

Many thanks to Terry (V1) Sophie, Zach, Caellan (T5) Ryan, Riley F, Harry, Liam, Megan (T4) and Archie (T3) for their great behaviour, and thanks to Mrs. Griffey and Jay for supporting the trip.



We also enjoyed the interactive arts installation next to the theatre!

## Outstanding behaviour



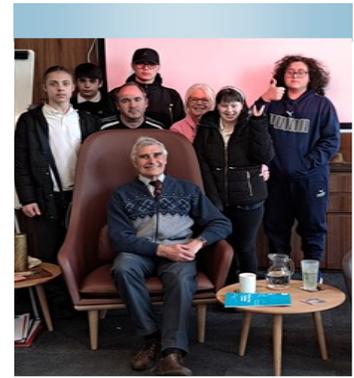
Ben Inman and Alison would like to thank Zach , Blake, Ollie Joe, Henry and Sophie for showing great maturity, outstanding positive behaviour and acts of kindness and respect to the staff who supported them during two trips to London in April.

On 19th April pupils visited the Houses of Parliament, exploring one of the most famous buildings in the world. Students saw the famous downing street, visited the Cenotaph and reflected maturely paying respect to those who lost their lives in the UK due to Covid visiting the wall of remembrance.



Blake, Ollie, Henry D, Sophie and Zach visited the Imperial War museum on the 26<sup>th</sup> April. Pupils learnt about what life really was like during the Blitz and how youngsters survived. They met war veteran John who was an evacuee during WW2 he had some amazing stories to tell us.

Again students were very respectful, kind and considerate to all staff supporting. John 86 years of age has fed back to Rowhill how he enjoyed our visit and loved sharing his stories with us.



*“Well done T5, keep up the great work! I am very proud of all of you!”*



Congratulations to Oliver Mackness, Nathan Childs, Kyle Moseling and Nathan Perry for passing their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award.

All pupils have worked extremely hard, giving up a lot of their time to better themselves, completing the skills, physical, voluntary and the most challenging part of the award the expedition unit. Well done on your achievement!



In addition to achieving his DofE award, Nathan Childs received a very special award, from a great supporter of Rowhill School, Great Britain's Commonwealth Gold medallist and Paralympian wheelchair racer Johnboy Smith. Nathan showed the true spirit of determination and never giving up.

Well done to all of you!

Ben Inman

DofE Coordinator

## Summer FETE

On Friday 7th July all classes took part in organizing and enjoying our annual summer Fete.



To kick things off, staff and pupils came together to enjoy lunch outside. Big thank you to our Kitchen team for an amazing spread of food for the street party!

In the afternoon, the games got underway, with classes being really creative in hosting stalls such as 'Splat a Rat!', ring toss, an assault course, and hook a duck!

Pupils were able to spend their 'Deano dollars' and 'Bartrum pounds' to take part, have fun, and win prizes!

It was a really successful day, with pupils and staff enjoying the fun activities and warm weather!



Big thank you to all the staff for their hard work and commitment in organizing and running the day.



## Summer Holiday - top tips!

Fola Sutherland, Rowhill's Occupational Therapist has shared some of her top tips ahead of the Summer Holidays.

- 1. Try to keep some sort of schedule** - this will be helpful to both you as parents/carers and to your young people, to provide some predictability, structure and consistency to the long summer break. This does not need to be rigid, and where possible you could involve your young person in putting this together. This can include a range of indoor/outdoor activities, visits to friends and family or holidays if you have any planned.
- 2. Take advantage of free/reduced price activities** - many leisure centres, swimming pools, trampoline parks and soft play centres offer discounted rates and sometimes free sessions for children with additional needs, look into what your local area has to offer.
- 3. Spend time outdoors** - this has benefits on your sleep, wellbeing, mood and respiratory system. Take a picnic and head to your local park or go for a walk with the family.
- 4. Summer projects** - a summer project or scavenger hunt is a good activity to keep younger children engaged during the holidays, Searching on Google will bring up lots of child-friendly scavenger hunts and summer projects that can be done with items you probably have at home already.
- 5. Ask for help** - if you or your young person find the holidays overwhelming, do reach out to friends, family or loved ones for support. If you need professional help, contact your GP or social worker/early help worker if you have one. Do not feel you need to cope alone as support is available.

We hope you will find some of these tips useful. From Fola and the rest of the therapy team, we'd like to wish you a restful and enjoyable summer break! See you in September!



## Year 11 Leavers

On Thursday 29th June it was time to say goodbye and good luck to our pupils in Year 11. A fantastic showcase was organized by our Performing Arts lead, Mrs O'Connor, who said "I would like to commend the musical performances that were enjoyed by staff and parents alike". It was a real highlight to see our leavers perform confidently and competently on the school stage, for some of them it had been a long journey from the nativity performances of primary school, right through to choosing their own song to perform at this very special event.

Huge congratulations to Terry, with his awesome guitar solo—clearly showing us all why he will be going on to study music performance at North Kent College. James and Oliver showcased inspiring vocals, before the final ensemble reminded us all to 'Toast to the ones here today'.

On Monday 10th July nine of our Year 11 students joined Mr Bartrum, Mr Hoare and Mrs O'Connor for a residential trip to Surrey. They visited Thorpe Park, Wisley Gardens, Box Hill and 'Pool on the Park' in Woking. What a way to make some memories to take forward onto their next adventure.

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*"Good luck to all our Year 11's—you will be missed!"*

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## Reminders

**Contact Details:** Please can you inform the school of any changes to your contact details, including mobile phone numbers and emergency contact information. We should not need to contact you often, however when do, we really need to, and if we aren't aware of changes this can delay the process of sharing information with you.

**No Smoking:** Please can we remind all parents and carers that Rowhill School is a no smoking site, neither vapes or cigarettes are permitted to be used. We thank all parents and carers for their support in ensuring their child does not bring these into school.

**Absence:** If your child is absent from school, please can you inform the school on the first day of the absence. Should you wish to discuss any attendance issues, please speak to Cathy Webb. Parents and Carers can contact Cathy Webb (DSL) on 01474 705377 ext. 1 then 141, to explain the absence for your child.

**Medical Forms and Medication:** If you have recently received a medical form please can you return this to Leah Carter as soon as possible. We also ask that parents and carers ensure we have a sufficient supply of medication for their child for the term.

## Farewells

At the end of the Summer Term we will also be saying goodbye to several members of staff.

Katie, a member of support staff is leaving the team to complete her teacher training. Katie has said: "I have thoroughly enjoyed working at Rowhill and will miss the inspiring, talented and humours pupils. I'm sad to be leaving but have made lots of memories that I will take with me. I hope to see you all again soon!"

We will also be saying goodbye to Marnie, who has been a part of the Rowhill team since 2016. Marnie has supported both in the classroom, and with the delivery of Occupational Therapy interventions. Marnie is moving to another specialist school to join their interventions team. Best of luck Marnie!

Finally, we say farewell to T1 teacher, Susan Welch, who has been a part of the Rowhill team for over 10 years, initially in our Primary school before joining the team in the Transition hub - Susan has been an asset and will be hugely missed by everyone!

## ICT

Yet another great year for ICT with a record number of NCFE level one qualifications and students preparing for level two.

This year, Mrs Bartlett-Fry has introduced video editing using the software many students are familiar with on TikTok, namely capcut. The results were amazing! Primary are also leading the way with Pivot animation creating mini epic movies.

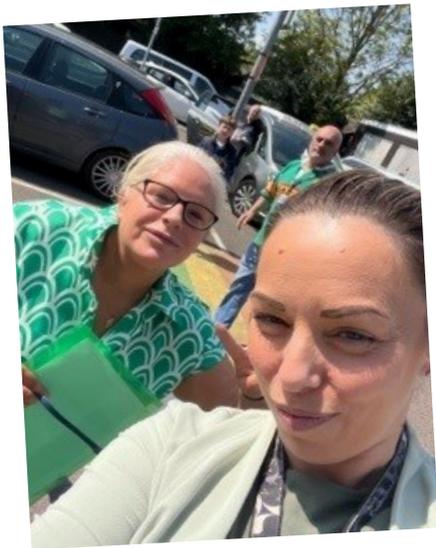
This term we have started code and programming using a selection of software packages, from primary to year eleven.

Wow what an amazing amount of talent we have in ICT.





We took part in  
Wear it Green Day  
during Mental Health  
Awareness Week  
15-21 May 2023



#WearItGreen



## Tree of Self-Esteem

At Rowhill we love every opportunity to celebrate the positive work and achievements of our pupils, from the academic accomplishments to the day-to-day positive behaviours we see.



The Summer Term was no different, huge well done to all our pupils that got a 'special' mention on our Tree of Self-Esteem, including:

**Reggie** - for supporting Leah when she was anxious head of sitting her GCSE exams.

**Lucas** – for being a kind friend and carrying everyone’s books back from the library.

**Billy** – showing another student what steps to do in DT.

**Evan** – outstanding effort at challenger troop.

**Max** – for supporting a new student in the class.

**Albie, Tyler, Kai, Reggie, Mason** – well done U14’s football team for a great effort at Long lane tournament.

**Charlie** – for litter picking at forest school.

**Freddie** – for a really positive attitude in school.

**George** – for being a helpful and responsible school councillor.

**Rylee** – making great choices with his behaviour and staying in class all day; despite others doing the wrong thing.

**Harrison** – for being polite and doing everything asked of him on his first day at Rowhill.

**Kyle** – for helping Dave set up and take down the tables in the lunch hall.

## Staying Safe Online

At Rowhill school we are very keen for our students to safely experience the wonders of technology. As well as using all of the basic software programmes such as; Word, Power point, Excel, Publisher and Database, we cover block coding in Computer science.

We also take online safety very seriously.

In the Primary and Transition Hubs we make wallet cards with details of helplines, and encourage our students to give them to people who may need help.

## Resources

**Kooth** offers emotional and mental health support to 11–19 year olds.



**Childline:** no problem is too big or too small. Children and young people can call free on 0800 1111 or get in touch online.



**National Online Safety:** help equip school staff, parents, and pupils with the knowledge they need to understand online dangers.



**Family Link** is a highly recommended app that lets you set digital ground rules for your child using devices. It is compatible with android and apple products.



## The Kent Resilience Hub

The Kent Resilience Hub is a resource that helps young people, parents and carers, staff and practitioners to understand emotional wellbeing and resilience.

<https://kentresiliencehub.org.uk/>



## Governors

Should parents and carers wish to contact the governors, they can be reached at:

[secretary@rowhill.kent.sch.uk](mailto:secretary@rowhill.kent.sch.uk)

## School dinners

Please note that school dinners are £2.20 per day, £11.00 per week. This is payable weekly, monthly, or termly.

Payments need to be made in advance of the meals being taken. If paying by cheque, please make cheques payable to:

**KCC re: Rowhill School.**

Please can we ask that if your child wishes to change their lunch option, you let the school know as soon as possible to ensure we can let kitchen staff know.

## Summer Holiday Workshops

Rowhill School's dedicated NHS Emotional Wellbeing Team facilitate online workshops that offer information around key topics to help parents and carers understand what is going on for their child and strategies to support them, based on the latest evidence and practice.

Several workshops are available across the summer holidays, including:

<b>Understanding Anxiety</b>	<b>25th July</b>	<b>10.30am-12.30pm</b>
<b>Starting Secondary School</b>	<b>26th July</b>	<b>5.30-7.30pm</b>
<b>Starting Primary School</b>	<b>1st August</b>	<b>12-2pm</b>
<b>Introduction to Understanding Autism</b>	<b>2nd August</b>	<b>5.30-7.30pm</b>
<b>Understanding Resilience</b>	<b>8th August</b>	<b>5.30-7.30pm</b>
<b>Understanding Your Child's Behaviour</b>	<b>9th August</b>	<b>10am-12pm</b>
<b>Starting Secondary School</b>	<b>16th August</b>	<b>10am-12pm</b>
<b>Starting Primary School</b>	<b>22nd August</b>	<b>11am-1pm</b>
<b>Understanding ADHD in Children</b>	<b>30th August</b>	<b>10.30am-12.30pm</b>

If you would like to join one of these workshops, please contact Rowhill's therapeutic lead Helen Thomas, who will be able to provide you with the details you will need. [helent@rowhill.kent.sch.uk](mailto:helent@rowhill.kent.sch.uk)

## Guidance for Taking your Child out of School

Parents no longer have the right to take their child out of school during term time. By law you must ask permission for your child to miss school. If you do not, you risk being served with a penalty notice from the local authority.

The Head Teacher does retain the right to authorise absence due to 'exceptional circumstances'. If you wish to take your child out of school during term time please write to the Head Teacher in the first instance detailing your reasons for consideration, we will then send a form home for you to complete.

## Parent Coffee Mornings

In the Autumn Term we will launch a regular forum for parents and carers to meet in school for a coffee and a conversation.

Parents and carers have told us that this space is an invaluable opportunity to meet with other families who are managing similar difficulties, to share ideas and strategies for what works.

Please keep an eye out for comms from school, with dates for your diaries!

